IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 12-14, 20, 21, 26-28, 34, 35, 40-42, 47-49, 54-56, 61, 62, 67-69, 74, 75, 80-82, and 87-89, as follows:

Claim 42 (currently amended):  A processing system for a system including a plurality of portable devices housings transported by consumers, each device housing containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes, a store and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating network addresses in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, the processing system comprising:

a first computer; and

a second computer,

wherein the first computer includes circuitry for sending first signals to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to the second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of network addresses, each of the plurality of network addresses corresponding to a respective computer in a respective computer network, and wherein the second computer includes circuitry for receiving first signals, and wherein the system further includes:

a plurality first processors, each located in one of the plurality of homes, responsive to a first signal received by the second computer, for sending a memory signal to a portable device housing in the plurality of devices housings, the memory signal corresponding to the product; and

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a second processor, in the store, for receiving the memory signal from a portable

device housing in the plurality of devices housings, to send a telecommunications signal

out of the store via a telecommunications signal path.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The processing system of claim 12 wherein each

device housing is a card.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The processing system of claim 12 wherein each

device housing further contains a processing unit that executes a program stored in a

random access memory.

Claim 15 (original): The processing system of claim 12 wherein the

telecommunications signal includes a signal identifying a consumer.

Claim 16 (original): The processing system of claim 12 wherein the store

includes

a receiver for receiving a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and

a determiner for determining a price for the product depending on whether the

memory signal, received by the second processor, corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 17 (original): The processing system of claim 16 wherein the store further

includes

an electromagnetic detector for generating the purchase signal.

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Claim 18 (original): The processing system of claim 16 wherein the store further includes

a bar code reader for generating the purchase signal.

Claim 19 (original): The processing system of claim 12 wherein each first processor includes a computer spatially removed from the second computer.

Claim 20 (currently amended): In a system including a store, a plurality of portable devices housings each containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes, and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating network addresses in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, a method comprising:

sending first signals from a first computer to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to a second computer to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of network addresses, each of the plurality of network addresses corresponding to a respective computer in a respective computer network;

receiving first signals, and

the step, performed in one of the homes, of

sending, responsive to a first signal received in the previous step, a memory signal to a portable device housing in the plurality of devices housings, the memory signal corresponding to the product, and

the step of

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subsequently, moving the portable device ~~housing~~ to the store, and

the step, performed in the store, of

receiving the memory signal from the portable device ~~housing~~, to send a

telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The method of claim 20 further including

executing a program stored in a random access memory in the portable device ~~housing~~.

Claim 22 (original): The method of claim 20 further including sending, in the

telecommunications signal, a signal identifying a consumer.

Claim 23 (original): The method of claim 20 further including the steps,

performed in the store, of

receiving a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and

determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal

corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 24 (original): The method of claim 20 further including the steps,

performed in the store, of

generating a purchase signal with an electromagnetic detector, the purchase

signal corresponding to a product;

receiving the purchase signal; and

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determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 25 (original): The method of claim 20 further including the steps, performed in the store, of

generating a purchase signal with a bar code reader, the purchase signal corresponding to a product;

receiving a purchase signal; and

determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A processing system for a system including a plurality of portable devices housings transported by consumers, each device housing containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes, a store and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating a routing signal in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, the processing system comprising:

a first computer; and

a second computer,

wherein the first computer includes circuitry for sending first signals to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to the second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of routing signals, each of the plurality of routing signals

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corresponding to a respective portion of a signal path between the first and second

computers, and wherein the second computer includes circuitry for receiving first

signals, and wherein the system further includes:

a plurality first processors, each located in one of the plurality of homes,

responsive to a first signal received by the second computer, for sending a memory

signal to a portable device ~~housing~~ in the plurality of devices ~~housings~~, the memory

signal corresponding to the product; and

a second processor, in the store, for receiving the memory signal from a portable

device ~~housing~~ in the plurality of devices ~~housings~~, to send a telecommunications signal

out of the store via a telecommunications signal path.


Claim 27 (currently amended):  The processing system of claim 26 wherein each

device ~~housing~~ is a card.


Claim 28 (currently amended):  The processing system of claim 26 wherein each

device ~~housing~~ further contains a processing unit that executes a program stored in a

random access memory.


Claim 29 (original):  The processing system of claim 26 wherein the

telecommunications signal includes a signal identifying a consumer.


Claim 30 (original):  The processing system of claim 26 wherein the store further

includes

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a receiver for receiving a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and

a determiner for determining a price for the product depending on whether the

memory signal, received by the second processor, corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 31 (original): The processing system of claim 30 wherein the store further includes

an electromagnetic detector for generating the purchase signal.

Claim 32 (original): The processing system of claim 30 wherein the store further includes

a bar code reader for generating the purchase signal.

Claim 33 (original): The processing system of claim 26 wherein each first

processor includes a computer spatially removed from the second computer.

Claim 34 (currently amended): In a system including a store, a plurality of

portable devices housings each containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes

and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating a routing signal in response

to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a

plurality of wide area communication links, a method comprising:

sending first signals from a first computer to the routing system, each first signal

including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address

corresponding to a second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a

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plurality of routing signals, each of the plurality of routing signals corresponding to a

respective portion of a signal path between the first and second computers;

    receiving first signals, and

the step, performed in one of the homes, of

    sending, responsive to a first signal received in the previous step, a memory

signal to a portable <u>device</u> ~~housing~~ in the plurality of <u>devices</u> ~~housings~~, the memory

signal corresponding to the product, and

the step of

    subsequently, moving the portable <u>device</u> ~~housing~~ to the store, and

the step, performed in the store, of

    receiving the memory signal from the portable <u>device</u> ~~housing~~, to send a

telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path.

Claim 35 (currently amended):  The method of claim 34 further including

executing a program stored in a random access memory in the portable <u>device</u> ~~housing~~.

Claim 36 (original):  The method of claim 34 further including sending, in the

telecommunications signal, a signal identifying a consumer.

Claim 37 (original):  The method of claim 34 further including the steps,

performed in the store, of

    receiving a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and

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determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 38 (original):  The method of claim 34 further including the steps, performed in the store, of

generating a purchase signal with an electromagnetic detector, the purchase signal corresponding to a product;

receiving the purchase signal; and

determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 39 (original):  The method of claim 34 further including the steps, performed in the store, of

generating a purchase signal with a bar code reader, the purchase signal corresponding to a product;

receiving a purchase signal; and

determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 40 (currently amended):  A processing system for a system including a store, a plurality of portable devices ~~housings~~ each containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes, and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating network addresses in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing

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system including a plurality of wide area communication links, the processing system

comprising:

means for sending first signals from a first computer to the routing system, each

first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address

corresponding to a second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a

plurality of network addresses, each of the plurality of network addresses corresponding

to a respective computer in a respective computer network;

means for receiving first signals;

means for sending, responsive to a first signal received by the previous means, a

memory signal to a portable device ~~housing~~ in the plurality of devices ~~housings~~, the

memory signal corresponding to the product, the means for sending being located in

one of the homes; and

means for receiving the memory signal from the portable device ~~housing~~ in the

store, to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications

signal path.


Claim 41 (currently amended): The processing system of claim 40 wherein each

device ~~housing~~ is a card.


Claim 42 (currently amended): The processing system of claim 40 wherein each

device ~~housing~~ further contains a processing unit that executes a program stored in a

random access memory.


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Claim 43 (original): The processing system of claim 40 wherein the telecommunications signal includes a signal identifying a consumer.

Claim 44 (original): The processing system of claim 40 wherein the store includes

means for receiving a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and

means for determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 45 (original): The processing system of claim 40 wherein the store includes

means for generating a purchase signal with an electromagnetic detector, the purchase signal corresponding to a product;

means for receiving the purchase signal; and

means for determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 46 (original): The processing system of claim 40 wherein the store includes

means for generating a purchase signal with a bar code reader, the purchase signal corresponding to a product;

means for receiving a purchase signal; and

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means for determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 47 (currently amended): A processing system for a system including a store, a plurality of portable devices housings each containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes, and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating network addresses in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, the processing system comprising:

means for sending first signals from a first computer to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to a second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of routing signals, each of the plurality of routing signals corresponding to a respective portion of a signal path between the first and second computers;

means for receiving first signals;

means for sending, responsive to a first signal received by the previous means, a memory signal to a portable device housing in the plurality of devices housings, the memory signal corresponding to the product, the means for sending being located in one of the homes; and

means for receiving the memory signal from the portable device housing in the store, to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path.

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Claim 48 (currently amended):  The processing system of claim 47 wherein each device ~~housing~~ is a card.

Claim 49 (currently amended):  The processing system of claim 47 wherein each device ~~housing~~ further contains a processing unit that executes a program stored in a random access memory.

Claim 50 (original):  The processing system of claim 47 wherein the telecommunications signal includes a signal identifying a consumer.

Claim 51 (original):  The processing system of claim 47 wherein the store includes

    means for receiving a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and

    means for determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 52 (original):  The processing system of claim 47 wherein the store includes

    means for generating a purchase signal with an electromagnetic detector, the purchase signal corresponding to a product;

    means for receiving the purchase signal; and

    means for determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

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Claim 53 (original):  The processing system of claim 47 wherein the store includes

means for generating a purchase signal with a bar code reader, the purchase signal corresponding to a product;

means for receiving a purchase signal; and

means for determining a price for the product depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.


Claim 54 (currently amended):  A processing system for a system including a first computer, a second computer, a plurality of portable devices ~~housings~~ each containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes, a store with a first receiver that receives signals from the plurality of portable devices ~~housings~~ to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path, and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating network addresses in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, the processing system comprising:

circuitry, in the first computer, that sends first signals to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to the second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of network addresses, each of the plurality of network addresses corresponding to a respective computer in a respective computer network, thereby enabling the second computer to receive first signals; and

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a plurality of home computers, each located in one of the plurality of homes,
responsive to a first signal received by the second computer, for sending a memory
signal to a portable <u>device</u> ~~housing~~ in the plurality of <u>devices</u> ~~housings~~, the memory
signal corresponding to the product.

Claim 55 (currently amended):  The processing system of claim 54 wherein each
<u>device</u> ~~housing~~ is a card.

Claim 56 (currently amended):  The processing system of claim 54 wherein each
<u>device</u> ~~housing~~ further contains a processing unit that executes a program stored in a
random access memory.

Claim 57 (original):  The processing system of claim 54 wherein the
telecommunications signal includes a signal identifying a consumer.

Claim 58 (original):  The processing system of claim 54 further including
a second receiver that receives a purchase signal corresponding to a product;
and
a determiner for determining a monetary amount depending on whether the
memory signal, received by the first receiver, corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 59 (original):  The processing system of claim 58 further including
an electromagnetic detector for generating the purchase signal.

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Claim 60 (original): The processing system of claim 58 further including a bar code reader for generating the purchase signal.


Claim 61 (currently amended): In a system including a store, a plurality of portable <u>devices</u> housings each containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes, and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating network addresses in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, a method comprising:

sending first signals from a first computer to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to a second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of network addresses, each of the plurality of network addresses corresponding to a respective computer in a respective computer network, thereby enabling the second computer to receive first signals; and

the step, performed in one of the homes, of

sending, responsive to a first signal received by the second computer, a memory signal to a portable <u>device</u> housing in the plurality of <u>devices</u> housings, the memory signal corresponding to the product, and

the step of

subsequently, moving the portable <u>device</u> housing to the store, and

the step, performed in the store, of

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receiving the memory signal from the portable <u>device</u> ~~housing~~, to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path.

Claim 62 (currently amended): The method of claim 61 further including executing a program stored in a random access memory in the portable <u>device</u> ~~housing~~.

Claim 63 (original): The method of claim 61 further including sending, in the telecommunications signal, a signal identifying a consumer.

Claim 64 (original): The method of claim 61 further including the steps, performed in the store, of

receiving a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and

determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 65 (original): The method of claim 61 further including the steps, performed in the store, of

generating a purchase signal with an electromagnetic detector, the purchase signal corresponding to a product;

receiving the purchase signal; and

determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

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Claim 66 (original): The method of claim 61 further including the steps, performed in the store, of

generating a purchase signal with a bar code reader, the purchase signal corresponding to a product;

receiving a purchase signal; and

determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 67 (currently amended): A processing system for a system including a first computer, a second computer, a plurality of portable devices ~~housings~~ each containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes, a store with a first receiver that receives signals from the plurality of portable devices ~~housings~~ to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path, and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating a routing signal in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, the processing system comprising:

circuitry, in the first computer, that sends first signals to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to the second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of routing signals, each of the plurality of routing signals corresponding to a respective portion of a signal path between the first and second computers, thereby enabling the second computer to receive first signals; and

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a plurality of home computers, each located in one of the plurality of homes,

responsive to a first signal received by the second computer, for sending a memory

signal to a portable device ~~housing~~ in the plurality of devices ~~housings~~, the memory

signal corresponding to the product.

Claim 68 (currently amended):  The processing system of claim 67 wherein each

device ~~housing~~ is a card.

Claim 69 (currently amended):  The processing system of claim 67 wherein each

device ~~housing~~ further contains a processing unit that executes a program stored in a

random access memory.

Claim 70 (original):  The processing system of claim 67 wherein the

telecommunications signal includes a signal identifying a consumer.

Claim 71 (original):  The processing system of claim 67 further including

a second receiver that receives a purchase signal corresponding to a product;

and

a determiner for determining a monetary amount depending on whether the

memory signal, received by the first receiver, corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 72 (original):  The processing system of claim 67 further including

an electromagnetic detector for generating the purchase signal.

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Claim 73 (original):  The processing system of claim 67 further including a bar code reader for generating the purchase signal.

Claim 74 (currently amended):  In a system including a store, a plurality of portable <u>devices</u> ~~housings~~ each containing an electronic memory, a plurality of homes and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating a routing signal in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, a method comprising:

sending, from a first computer, a first signal to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to a second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of routing signals, each of the plurality of routing signals corresponding to a respective portion of a signal path between the first and second computers, thereby enabling the second computer to receive first signals; and

the step, performed in one of the homes, of

sending, responsive to a first signal received by the second computer, a memory signal to a portable <u>device</u> ~~housing~~ in the plurality of <u>devices</u> ~~housings~~, the memory signal corresponding to the product, and

the step of

subsequently, moving the portable <u>device</u> ~~housing~~ to the store, and

the step, performed in the store, of

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receiving the memory signal from the portable device housing, to send a

telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path.

Claim 75 (currently amended): The method of claim 74 further including

executing a program stored in a random access memory in the portable device housing.

Claim 76 (original): The method of claim 74 further including sending, in the

telecommunications signal, a signal identifying a consumer.

Claim 77 (original): The method of claim 74 further including the steps,

performed in the store, of

    receiving a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and

    determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal

corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 78 (original): The method of claim 74 further including the steps,

performed in the store, of

    generating a purchase signal with an electromagnetic detector, the purchase

signal corresponding to a product;

    receiving the purchase signal; and

    determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal

corresponds to the purchase signal.

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Claim 79 (original):  The method of claim 74 further including the steps, performed in the store, of

generating a purchase signal with a bar code reader, the purchase signal corresponding to a product;

receiving a purchase signal; and

determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 80 (currently amended):  A processing system for a system including a plurality of portable devices housings each containing an electronic memory, a store with a first receiver that receives signals from the plurality of portable devices housings to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path, a plurality of homes, and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating network addresses in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, the processing system comprising:

means for sending first signals from a first computer to the routing system, each first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address corresponding to a second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a plurality of network addresses, each of the plurality of network addresses corresponding to a respective computer in a respective computer network, thereby enabling the second computer to receive first signals; and

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means for sending, responsive to a first signal received by the second computer, a memory signal to a portable device housing in the plurality of devices housings, the memory signal corresponding to the product, the means for sending being located in one of the homes.

Claim 81 (currently amended):  The processing system of claim 80 wherein each device housing is a card.

Claim 82 (currently amended):  The processing system of claim 80 wherein each device housing further contains a processing unit that executes a program stored in a random access memory.

Claim 83 (original):  The processing system of claim 80 wherein the telecommunications signal includes a signal identifying a consumer.

Claim 84 (original):  The processing system of claim 80 wherein the store includes

a second receiver that receives a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and

means for determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

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Claim 85 (original): The processing system of claim 80 wherein the store includes

means for generating a purchase signal with an electromagnetic detector, the purchase signal corresponding to a product;

a second receiver that receives the purchase signal; and

means for determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 86 (original): The processing system of claim 80 wherein the store includes

means for generating a purchase signal with a bar code reader, the purchase signal corresponding to a product;

a second receiver that receives a purchase signal; and

means for determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 87 (currently amended): A processing system for a system including a plurality of portable devices housings each containing an electronic memory, a store with a first receiver that receives signals from the plurality of portable devices housings to send a telecommunications signal out of the store via a telecommunications signal path, a plurality of homes, and a routing system for receiving a signal and generating network addresses in response to an inter-network address in the received signal, the

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routing system including a plurality of wide area communication links, the processing

system comprising:

means for sending first signals from a first computer to the routing system, each

first signal including a signal corresponding to a product, and an inter-network address

corresponding to a second computer, to cause the routing system to generate a

plurality of routing signals, each of the plurality of routing signals corresponding to a

respective portion of a signal path between the first and second computers, thereby

enabling the second computer to receive first signals; and

means for sending, responsive to a first signal received by the second computer,

a memory signal to a portable <u>device</u> ~~housing~~ in the plurality of <u>devices</u> ~~housings~~, the

memory signal corresponding to the product, the means for sending being located in

one of the homes.


Claim 88 (currently amended):  The processing system of claim 87 wherein each

<u>device</u> ~~housing~~ is a card.


Claim 89 (currently amended):  The processing system of claim 87 wherein each

<u>device</u> ~~housing~~ further contains a processing unit that executes a program stored in a

random access memory.


Claim 90 (original):  The processing system of claim 87 wherein the

telecommunications signal includes a signal identifying a consumer.


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Claim 91 (original): The processing system of claim 87 wherein the store includes

a second receiver that receives a purchase signal corresponding to a product; and

means for determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 92 (original): The processing system of claim 87 wherein the store includes

means for generating a purchase signal with an electromagnetic detector, the purchase signal corresponding to a product;

a second receiver that receives the purchase signal; and

means for determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.

Claim 93 (original): The processing system of claim 87 wherein the store includes

means for generating a purchase signal with a bar code reader, the purchase signal corresponding to a product;

a second receiver that receives a purchase signal; and

means for determining a monetary amount depending on whether the memory signal corresponds to the purchase signal.